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REPORT NO. R008000740005-1

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Far East)

SUBJECT Troops and Military Installations in
Southern Sakhalin

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 24 Aug 51

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The following military installations in Southern Sakhalin were observed between 1945 and 1950:
 - a. An ammunition factory behind Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Toyohara, 46-57N, 142-44E) railway station was garrisoned by one Soviet division. *
 - b. In Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk there was a large air base with troops of almost divisional strength (before 1949).
 - c. Another ammunition factory was in the former Oji Paper Mill at Kholmsk (Maoka, 47-03N, 142-03E). On a hill behind the factory were artillery troops with about 10 anti-aircraft guns, with headquarters in a house which was formerly the property of the paper mill.
 - d. Motorized infantry troops were stationed at the former Maoka Girls' High School.
 - e. In the mountains two and a half miles southwest of Kholmsk Station and a mile to a mile and a quarter southwest of the Kholmsk public square were 30,000 Soviet troops with Katyusha rocket launchers in a severely restricted area.
 - f. A transportation unit was stationed about 300 yards from the Kholmsk railway station.
 - g. There was one battalion of troops in Nevelsk (Honto, 44-52N, 46-40E) (before 1949).

2. [redacted] the Soviets did not consider Sakhalin of major importance as a strategic area, and for that reason they did not build any new building after they occupied it. On the other hand, many buildings burned down.

* Comment: A division would be far in excess of the number of troops required to guard or even to operate an a munition factory. The informant may not have known that the Russian word divizion means battalion, not division (diviziya). Even if the troops were merely quartered in a defunct ammunition factory, a division would be excessive.

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